

L. T. Long

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD



Annual Reports
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year

1960

Medical Officer of Health :

GEORGE A. FULTON, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic
(Local Health Authority)

Tel. No. Ashton-in-Makerfield 7245.

Public Health Inspectors :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. JOHN BRENNAN, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. BRIAN B. MORGANS, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.
Resigned May, 1960.

Mr. DEREK M. BOLD, Cert. Royal Society of Health.
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.
Appointed September, 1960.

Food Inspectors :

Public Health Inspectors as above.

Superintendent of Cleansing Department :

Mr. FRANK BURROWS.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1960

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council,
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration, the eighty-fifth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1960.

Introduction

The District lies somewhere about half way between the large conurbations of Liverpool and Manchester, contiguous with and to the southern side of Wigan County Borough. The District adjoins those of Haydock, Golborne, Abram and Billinge. There is a gentle slope of the ground from north-west to south-west and the nearest point to the sea is some fourteen miles from it. Geologically the area is of coal measures and Bunter Sandstone. The area is approximately 6.265 acres.

Social Conditions

Ashton Urban District is part of Number 8 Health Division of the Lancashire County Council and contains fifteen per cent of the total area of the Division and seventeen per cent of the population. The population of Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District was 19,053 at the Census of 1951 and is now 19,460. In common with Great Britain generally, our population contains an increasing proportion of persons over sixty-five. Throughout the country generally this proportion of over sixty-fives has risen from 11.7% in 1957 to an estimated figure of 16% in 1987. At present the percentage for Ashton-in-Makerfield is approximately 13%.

Deep coal mining has now ceased and those engaged in this work now have to travel a distance to mines in other areas. There is textile weaving, rayon manufacture and iron foundry to give employment to the population and agriculture is an important industry.

The Rateable Value of property in the Urban District is £157,396, and a penny rate yields £632/0/0d.

The District participates in the Health Services and Welfare Services provided by the Lancashire County Council through Number 8 Division.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District

The water supply is locally collected upland surface water and water bought from the Liverpool Corporation. The water mains have been extended to private estate developments at Town Green and Garswood estates and to the Council estate at Low Bank Road, representing one hundred and three new houses. At the end of the year 6,254 houses were supplied direct from the public mains. The local collected water is not satisfactory but is efficiently filtered and chlorinated to ensure a safe supply to consumers. Eighty-four samples of raw water showed only three satisfactory on Chemical analysis and of forty-two samples examined bacteriologically, twenty were satisfactory. Water going into supply after treatment showed on chemical analysis, out of one hundred and ten samples one hundred and one were satisfactory; on bacteriological examination forty-three out of 52 were satisfactory.

The method of sewage disposal is sedimentation and filtration. There are 5,497 houses on the water carriage system and 690 using pail closets; during the year 257 pail closets were converted to fresh water closets. The number of water closets in use is 6,275.

The refuse is collected from 5,456 moveable dustbins and 1,326 dry ash pits and is disposed of by controlled tipping. A gully emptier is used for the pail closets.

The sanitary requirements of the Urban District are : renewal of sewage disposal works, conversion of remaining pail closets, new houses to deal with persons from Clearance Areas, bungalows for aged persons and Private street works.

Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year population : 19,460.

Comparability factors : Births—0.97.
Deaths—1.19.

	Male	Female
Live Births		
Total	179	168
Legitimate	178	165
Illegitimate	1	3
Still Births		
Total	4	1
Legitimate	4	1
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Deaths—infants under 1 year of age		
Total	8	2
Legitimate	8	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age

	Male	Female
Total	5	2
Legitimate	5	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Deaths—infants under one week of age

Total	5	2
Legitimate	5	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)

Crude rate	12.9
Adjusted rate	15.4
Respiratory Tuberculosis	Nil
Malignant neoplasms	2.36

Live Birth Rates per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate	17.8
Adjusted rate	17.3
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births	14.2
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	Nil
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	28.8
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	20.2
Early neo-natal rate per 1,000 live births	20.2
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births	34.1

Cause of Death

	Male	Female
Total	126	126
Cancer stomach	3	6
,, lungs	14	2
,, breast	Nil	5
,, uterus	Nil	1
,, other forms	6	6
Leukaemia	2	1
Syphilis	Nil	1
Vascular disease of nervous system	10	20
Coronary disease	23	8
Hypertension	6	5
Other cardiac disease	12	34

Circulatory disease	5	7
Influenza	Nil	1
Pneumonia	5	4
Bronchitis	10	6
Other respiratory diseases	1	Nil
Ulcer of stomach etc.	2	Nil
Gastro-enteritis	Nil	1
Congenital malformations	5	1
Other diseases	15	13
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	1
Other accidents	2	3
Suicide	3	Nil

Infectious Disease and Immunisation

Type	Pre-school	school children	adults	Total
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)	269	26	Nil	295
Diphtheria (re-inforcing Injections)	68	401	Nil	469
Poliomyelitis,—Primary	199	68	185	452
Re-inforcing	282	632	595	1509
Smallpox Vaccinations,—Primary	145	2	5	152
Re-inforcing	Nil	4	16	20

The number of persons immunised against Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis during the year is an improvement on last year but the response to propaganda for Smallpox vaccination is not satisfactory. Although this disease is fortunately not common it can be serious at times and vaccination should not be neglected.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										AGE PERIODS—YEARS					Total known deaths
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	& un- known	25 and over	15- and over	10- and over	5- and over		
Scarlet Fever	12	—	1	1	—	2	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	
Whooping Cough	7	—	2	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	
Measles	59	3	7	6	9	4	29	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	
							0-	5-	15-	45-	65	Age & over	25 and over	15- and over	10- and over	5- and over	Total all known deaths
Acute pneumonia	3						—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	Nil	
Paratyphoid	2						1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	
Erysipelas	1						—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	
Tuberculosis Respiratory	12						2	1	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	Nil	
Puerperal pyrexia	1						—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	Nil	
Other notifiable disease	Nil						—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Department for their great help in the daily work and my colleagues in other Departments as well as the Members of the Council for their continued support.

Your obedient servant,

G. A. FULTON.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1960

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I wish to submit for your consideration my Annual Report, relating to the work carried out by the Public Health Department for the year ending the 31st December, 1960. I am pleased with the progress that has been made both with the Council's Clearance Area programme and the abolition of pail closets. A few years ago the task of dealing with both these problems seemed to be almost incapable of being overcome . . Each time a programme was agreed and on many occasions when preparatory work had been carried out it was found necessary to abandon the schemes until a later date.

Excellent progress has been made in the conversion and abolition of pail closets. In three years more than one thousand have been dispensed with and now only about seven hundred remain. In this total are closets to houses which are not on the sewer system and at some, the sewers are not satisfactory and are not capable of dealing with the effluent from water closets. After the 1961 pail closet conversion scheme has been completed it will be necessary for a detailed survey to be made to ascertain the extent of the problem of providing sewers to the type of premises mentioned.

During the last week of the year the first house of the ninety-one included in the 1959 Slum Clearance programme was demolished. Twelve families involving thirty-one persons had been rehoused from these Clearance Areas and the construction of the ninety houses in Scheme 30 (Low Bank Road Site) was well advanced.

Routine work in connection with house inspection, nuisances, food hygiene, milk and ice-cream sampling, factories, smoke control, petroleum regulations, rodent control, refuse collection and disposal, moveable dwellings, infectious disease, improvement grants and other duties, occupied the major part of your Inspectors time, but with major schemes such as mentioned previously it was sometimes necessary to shelve routine work.

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re	
nuisances and complaints	2,686

Nuisances discovered	1,224
Nuisances abated	1,024
Re-visits re nuisances	1,343
Visits re infectious disease	31
Re-visits re infectious disease	25
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale	461
Visits to factories	149
Visits to dairies	37
Visits to shops (Shops and Public Health Acts)	227
Notices served (Preliminary)	204
Notices served (Statutory)	57
Legal proceedings	Nil
Letters sent	624
Court Abatement Orders made	Nil

Description of Nuisances Dealt With.

Defective and damp walls	137
,, roofs	128
,, eavesgutters and spouts	168
,, floors	7
,, sinks	7
,, wastepipes	15
,, plasterwork	208
,, windows and doors	239
,, staircases	10
,, paving in yards and passages	18
,, chimneys and stacks	24
,, setting around gullies	15
,, firegrates	33
,, washing boilers	6
,, W.C. cisterns	24
,, W.C. basins	1
,, W.C. supply pipes	50
,, closets (roofs, floors, walls, doors and seats)	9
,, ashpits (roofs, floors, doors and walls)	8
,, pail places and doors	3
Overcrowding	14
Houses or parts requiring cleansing	6
Accumulation of refuse	7
Choked and defective drains	49
Ventilating shafts	6
Insufficient light and ventilation	5
Miscellaneous	31

Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

I have, in the preamble, made observations regarding the start made in rehousing families from the Clearance Areas confirmed in 1959 and 1960. In addition two families were rehoused from houses dealt with under the provisions of Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1959 and seven houses were condemned under these same provisions.

Only nine Council Houses were completed during the year but there was a considerable increase in the number of private dwellings erected. Many sites were in the process of being developed by private builders and from observations made it appears that many persons from adjoining towns are happy to reside in Ashton-in-Makerfield and to travel each day to work outside the district.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

		Houses	Flats
(a)	(i) By local authority	9	Nil
	(ii) By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
	(iii) By other bodies or persons	94	Nil

1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year :

		Houses
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) (Includes Slum Clearance Survey under Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/60)	597
	(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	1,323
	(c) Number of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	296
(2)	Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit.	20

2. Houses Demolished :—

	Houses Demolished	Persons ¹³²⁴⁵⁵ Demolished	during year Families
(1)	Houses unfit for human habitation	1	31
(2)	Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	—	—
(3)	Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—

Not in Clearance Areas :

(4)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957	—	3	2
(5)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	—	—	—

(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts — — —

(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders — — —

3. Unfit Houses Closed :—

Number	Displaced Persons	during year Families
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(1) Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957 — — —

(2) Under Sections 17(3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957 — — —

(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 — — —

4. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:

By Order	By Local Authority
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(1) After informal action by local authority 111 —

(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts 42 Nil

 (b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957 Nil Nil

(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 Nil —

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) :—

Number of Houses	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)
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Position at end of year : (1) (2)

(1) Retained for temporary accommodation:—

 (a) Under Section 48 — —

 (b) Under Section 17(2) — —

 (c) Under Section 46 — —

(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 — —

6. Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—
Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year — —

7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act 1948—
Improvement grants etc. :—

No. of Schemes	Private bodies or Individuals		No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	Local Authority No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected
	No. of dwelling-houses	No. of other buildings affected			

Action during year :

- (a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority 3 3 — —
- (b) Approved by Local Authority 3 3 — —
- (c) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry Nil Nil Nil Nil
- (d) Finally approved by Ministry Nil Nil Nil Nil
- (e) Work completed 3 3 Nil Nil
- (f) Additional separate dwellings included in (c) above Nil Nil Nil Nil
- (g) Any other action taken under the Acts Nil.

8. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—Standard grants :—

Action during year :

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority	57
(b) Applications approved by local authority	55
(c) Work completed	33
(d) Remarks :—All applications received have been from owner/occupiers. Owners of tenanted properties have not taken advantage of the grants and this is most disappointing.	

During 1960 there was a considerable increase in the number of applications for "Standard Grants", in all cases except one, from owner/occupiers.

The work in dealing with these applications, supervision of the work and dealing with the accounts, to ascertain the actual amount of grant to be paid is considerable. I had hoped that the practice notes promised by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government a considerable time ago would have been made available, but even at the time of writing this report I have not yet been made aware that they have been published.

Thirty-three houses were improved by the installation of the extra amenities and it was most pleasing to see the transformation of these older type houses into dwellings that afforded the occupants the facilities only provided previously, in the main, in the newly erected dwellings.

I do regret however, that tenanted houses are not being provided with these amenities and that landlords are not prepared to take advantage of the provisions of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Only three applications were received for "Discretionary" grants, but in each case the Council agreed to contribute towards same.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1957

Although no applications were made by tenants for Certificates of disrepair, the Council dealt with four applications for cancellation (Form M) by landlords. In all four cases the tenants made formal objection and in three instances the objections were upheld. In the other case the Certificate of disrepair was cancelled.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954

Two applications were received from licensed slaughtermen and in each case the application was granted.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Work has continued in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and other legislation dealing with the storage, preparation and sale of food. Although the general standard of food hygiene, in respect of both food handlers and premises has improved considerably over the past few years, it has been found necessary to make constant routine inspections to keep the standard high. The constant changes in staff in the larger stores makes it necessary for these contacts to be made. Any relaxation by food handlers during their work could be the cause of an outbreak of food poisoning involving a large number of persons or at the very least, causing grave discomfort to an individual consumer.

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	105
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game etc)	15
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	19
Bakers and/or confectioners	21
Fried Fish shops	24
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream etc.	23
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments	74
Other	8

The next table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, Sections 115 and 116.

Sale of Ice-Cream	66
Manufacture of Cooked Meat and Sausage	12
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles	5
Storage of fish sold from vehicles	4
Storage of Fruit and Vegetables sold from vehicles	10

Food Condemned—1960

36 lbs. Ox Tongue	2 Tins Milk
6 Tins Tomatoes	18 Tins Peas
16 Tins Lunch Tongue	3 Tins Meat Pudding
52 Tins Fruit	1 Tin Cream
2 Tins Salmon	1 Tin Beans
4 Tins Steak	145 lbs. Beef
51 lbs. Corned Beef	2 Tins Peeled Shrimps
18½ lbs. Boiled Ham	3 Tins Cooked Ham
2 Cans Corned Beef	3½ lbs. Whole Chicken
1 Jar Chicken Spread	

Milk and Dairies

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

The number of registered distributors is as follows :—

(1) Dairies in district	6
(2) Shops in district	50
(3) Premises outside district	Nil

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealers' Licences—Tuberculin Tested Milk	2
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Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Retail Distributors :—

Pasteurised	14
Sterilised	50

One-hundred and eight visits and inspections were made to dairies and shops where milk is sold, in addition to farms, etc., in connection with milk sampling, the particulars of which are as follows :—

Biological Test (Tuberculosis)	22
Negative	22
Positive	Nil
No result	Nil
Phosphatase Test	17
Satisfactory	17
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Methylene Blue Test	17
Satisfactory	17
Unsatisfactory	Nil
Turbidity Test	5
Satisfactory	5
Unsatisfactory	Nil

Ice-Cream

Fifty-eight samples of Ice-Cream were taken, the results being as follows :—

		Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade 1	45	32	13
Provisional Grade 2	5	1	4
Provisional Grade 3	5	Nil	5
Provisional Grade 4	2	Nil	2
Void Samples	Nil	Nil	Nil

Although only two Grade four samples of ice-cream were reported from a production plant within the district, it was considered necessary to again carry out a complete check of the equipment and manufacturing technique. This involved a considerable amount of detailed inspection and although much time has to be spent on such occasions it is considered to be essential in order to find the cause of the unsatisfactory samples. The quantity of ice-cream consumed has increased considerably over the past years and as children seem to be able to consume enormous quantities of this commodity and are most susceptible to stomach troubles, this section of our work cannot be neglected.

A new ice-cream dairy was planned during the year by the manufacturers concerned and work was commenced on its construction.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Two shops are licensed under the provisions of this Act.

The occupiers are fully conversant with the requirements of the Act and no infringements have been observed.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts

The number of applications for petroleum storage licences was forty-four, the fees received were £31/10/0. When new tanks are installed strict supervision is maintained and the twenty-four hour pressure test enforced.

Public Cleansing

As mentioned previously in the report there has been a reduction in the number of pails and ash pits still in use in the district, but I cannot be satisfied until all have been abolished.

During the year a new refuse disposal site was obtained and controlled tipping commenced. The site is at a distance of three and a half miles from the centre of the town, but although it has the disadvantage of increased haul and consequently higher fuel costs, the complaints previously received when the tip was near to houses have ceased.

The cost of preparing and maintaining the site, which involves soil removal, drainage, covering with inert material as required and covering

the tip with soil to form agricultural land upon completion, is much higher than when tipping, which was only partially controlled, was previously carried out at other sites.

I must point out however, that some local authorities in England are unable to find sites in which to dispose of refuse and are obliged to rent sites as much as forty miles outside their districts. The cost of providing an incinerator capable of dealing with the refuse of a community of 20,000 people is over £100,000 which, I am sure, is prohibitive.

The site in question should, I estimate, provide tipping space for a period of over twenty years and has been leased for this period.

The weekly collection of dustbins from domestic and trade premises has been maintained. Five Bedford refuse collection vehicles of seven cubic yard capacity are used for the collection of refuse and the 600 gallon capacity gully emptier is employed part time in pail collection. This vehicle is engaged by the Highways Department for the cleansing of cesspools, street gullies and sewers when not required on pail collection.

The Council agreed to purchase a Dual-Tip Refuse Collector of 18 cubic yard capacity which will be delivered in 1961 and will displace one of the older vehicles and also cope with the increased number of dustbins from new properties now being erected.

The following table gives details of closets, bins, ashpits, etc., in the district and details of the progress made throughout the year.

Closet Accommodation

Pails demolished	Pails converted	W.C.'s. provided	Ashpits abolished	Bins provided
1	257	388	107	186

Total Closet Accommodation in the District

Number of pail closets at end of 1959 (approximately)	948
Less number converted	257
Less number demolished	1
Total abolished	258
	258
Total number of pail closets at end of 1960	690
	<hr/>
Number of Water Closets at end of 1959 (approximately)	5,887
Number of conversions, including troughs and waste water)	258
Number of fresh water closets at new houses	103
Number of extra water closets erected	27
Number of water closets demolished	Nil
	<hr/>
Number of water closets at end of 1960	6,275
	<hr/>
Number of waste ^{water} closets included above	15

Number of dry ashpits at end of 1959 (approximately)	1,433
Number of dry ashpits abolished during 1960	107
	<hr/>
	1,326
Number of moveable ashbins at end of 1959 (approximately)	5,270
Number of ashbins substituted for fixed receptacles during 1960	80
Number of new houses	103
Extra bins provided	3
	<hr/>
	5,456
Number of bins at properties demolished	<hr/>
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1960	5,456
	<hr/>

Salvage of Waste Paper

Although there was a slight increase in the weight of paper collected the income was reduced by approximately £50 compared with the year 1959.

I consider that if a determined effort was made by shopkeepers, householders and the Council's employees the quantity and income could be considerably increased.

The income and weight was as follows :—

£1,874/9/3d. from 241 tons 1 cwt. 2 qrs.

Factories Act, 1937

Number of factories on register : 123.

	Inspections	Written Notices
With Mechanical Power	96	98
Without Mechanical Power	22	44
Other Premises (Not outworkers)	6	7
Outworkers	3	3
	<hr/>	
	127	152
		Nil

Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unsuitable closet accommodation	4	4
Other offences	2	2
	<hr/>	
	6	6

Registered Premises

Bakers and Confectioners	22
Plumbers and Painters	13
Joiners and Builders	11
Shoeing smiths	1
Wheelwrights	1
Motor and cycle repairers	19
Lock and hinge manufacturers	3
Laundries	1
Printers	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers	2
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers	2
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	2
Sausage makers	12
Wholesale chemists	1
Cotton weavers	1
Boot,shoe and clog repairers	9
Gas holders	1
Electricians	1
Sawmills	2
Contractors	1
Air compressors, etc.	1
Monumental Masons	1
Agricultural machinery repairers	2
Metal Turners	2
Cinemas	2
Food Preparation	1
Demolition Contractors	1
Cattle food preparation	1
General Engineering	7
<hr/>	
	124

Section 110

There are three outworkers resident in the district employed by firms carrying on business outside this area.

Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

The two cabinet makers and upholsterers works have been visited both for factory inspections and also in connection with the above Act. These premises are not registered by the Local Authority as only work of reconditioning takes place, but it is considered necessary to make inspections to enforce the provisions of the Act if at any time this should become necessary.

Smoke Abatement

In addition to the thirteen observations of factory chimneys, when use was made of the Ringelmann Chart to check the shade of smoke emitted, visits were made to factories and discussions with managers took place in order to reduce air pollution to a minimum.

Occasionally there was cause for complaint from the occupiers of houses adjoining certain factories due mainly to neglect by stokers.

Although the district is within the "black area" of South East Lancashire and North East Cheshire no action was taken in establishing smoke control areas. Early in the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was informed that "the Council agree in principle to the desirability of establishing Smoke Control Areas, but in view of the present position in the Mining Industry and to the apparent shortage of smokeless fuel, they do not propose to establish any such areas at the present time". At the end of the year there was no alteration of this decision.

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

This Act makes further provision for the licensing and control of caravan sites and authorises local authorities to provide and operate caravan sites.

A site licence is required before land is used as a caravan site and local authorities are empowered to attach conditions to such site licences. This Act was long overdue and gives added power to prevent indiscriminate use of land which is not suitable for the purpose.

The common land at Edge Green was visited more frequently than in previous years by gypsies and persons of this class, who travel up and down the country. Some were most inconsiderate and caused considerable nuisance at the site due to their untidy habits. It was again necessary to make daily visits in an effort to make them move in the shortest possible time.

In one case where an application to site a caravan on land within the district had been refused by the Council an appeal was lodged by the occupier. The case was heard in the Magistrates' Court at Wigan, when the appeal was rejected.

Infectious Disease

Persons notified as suffering from infectious disease are visited and investigations made to ascertain the source of infection. An outbreak of para-typhoid in an isolated part of the district involved forty-eight visits. Eighty-one specimens were taken from patients and contacts over a period of five months. It was necessary to obtain three consecutive negative samples from each person before the infection could be considered clear. In addition, water samples and Moores pad specimens were taken, but no organisms of the typhoid or Salmonella groups were grown and the source of pollution, contact and infection was not traced. The co-operation by the persons concerned was most gratifying espe-

cially during the period of convalescence when restriction of movement was no doubt, most tedious.

The full table and details of infectious disease notified during 1960 are included in Dr. Fulton's report.

Disinfestation

All cases of infested property reported or found during inspection are promptly treated, use being made of trade fumigants both in liquid and powder form.

The number and type of infestation dealt with was as follows :—

Council Houses 19 Other Houses 45

Treated for the following infestations :—

Cockroaches	30	Silverfish	1
Bugs	3	Ants	19
Woodworm	1	Crickets	2
Flies	1	Fleas	3
Wasps	1	Precautionary Treatments	3

Rodent Control

Continuous inspection of the district was maintained throughout the year by the Public Health Inspectors and the full time Rodent Operator. By this means, infestations of both rats and mice can be dealt with before they become a major problem.

The 10% test and two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out. The number of sewer manholes showing complete takes was only two out of an approximate number of seven hundred and fifty manholes in the district and seven others showed only partial takes.

Details of other action taken was as follows :—

		TYPE OF PROPERTY		
		Non-Agricultural Dwelling-houses	All other	Agricultural
(a)	Number of Properties in district	6,255	881	54
(b)	Number of properties inspected	672	228	49
(c)	Total inspections carried out (inc. re-inspections)	721	278	49
(d)	Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by :—			
	Rats—major	Nil	Nil	Nil
	minor	144	18	Nil
	Mice—major	Nil	Nil	Nil

minor	.....	13	11	1
(e) Number of infested properties treated	.....	157	29	1
(f) Total treatments carried out (inc. re-treatments)	.....	183	33	1
(g) Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

This Act provides for securing the safety, health and welfare of persons employed in agriculture and certain other occupations and local authorities are empowered to ensure that agricultural units on which workers are employed are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

All the units in the Council's area were visited at least once during the year, other visits being made to some farms during the period when harvesting was in progress. The facilities provided at the farms are considered to be satisfactory and it was not necessary for any action to be taken.

Public Conveniences

The public conveniences at both Wigan Road and Princess Road were again subject to wanton damage and destruction. Windows were broken with monotonous regularity. Door panels, closet seats, fixtures and fittings were also broken.

Coin locks were damaged and stolen and although the police co-operated as much as possible the offenders managed to escape detection in almost every instance. I am satisfied that much sterner measures are necessary when any person is caught damaging public property than is the present practice. Heavier fines should be imposed on the culprits and they should be made to bear the costs of the damage, together with all other incidental costs in connection with the hearing of the case at Court.

The attendants have kept the conveniences in a very clean and hygienic condition and have spent much time in dealing with nuisances caused by misuse especially during the Blackpool illuminations season.

Problem Families

Although the number of problem families in Ashton-in-Makerfield is very small and no new cases have been reported for the past few years, much time was spent on the odd case in which no improvement was shown. In addition, families that cannot really be regarded as "problem families" but are inclined to accept a standard of cleanliness and conduct lower than is generally expected have been visited, in order to persuade them to improve their standard of living.

There has been close contact and co-operation at all times with the other field workers concerned with this duty and the quarterly meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee have been attended.

Food and Drugs Acts

The action taken by the County Medical Officer of Health's Department is as follows :—

A total of one hundred and five samples was obtained, consisting of fifty-seven samples of milk (one of which was a sample of Channel Islands milk) and forty-eight others comprising :—

3 Butter	1 Nasal inhaler
9 Tea	1 Compound syrup of hypophosphites
1 Ammoniated mercury ointment	1 Fruit curd
8 Sauce	2 Pork sausages
1 Fresh Fruit	1 Flour
2 Meat pies	1 Malt vinegar
1 Custard powder	1 Tomato ketchup
1 Fruit chutney	2 Beef sausages
1 Fruit mixture, dried	1 Cough mixture
1 Minced chicken in jelly	1 Fruit and nut milk chocolate
1 Whole nut milk chocolate	1 Milk chocolate
1 Brazil nut chocolate	2 Fruiti, dried
1 Milk chocolate with almonds and honey	1 Fruit, dried (stoned raisins)
1 White pepper	

The samples were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis and, with the exception of those detailed below were reported to be genuine:—

Type of Sample	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
1 Minced chicken in jelly	Contained only 68.0% chicken. Should not contain less than 70.0% chicken.	Manufacturers notified
1 Fruit, dried (stoned raisins)	Contained live mites and actively growing yeast.	Remaining stock examined

In conclusion I wish to thank the staff of the Public Health Department, and all other officials of the Town Hall, together with the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary and Health Committee for the co-operation given to me during the year.

Your faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

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